*The House at Riverton*

By: Kate Morton

Report By: Sari Kroschel

When Grace was looking for work at the Riverton House, she didn’t know that after she left, she would have a secret that would haunt her for the rest of her life. A poet killed himself at a party at Riverton. Only two people were watching (according to the police), but really three people watched him. Two of them were sisters, the unknown other was Grace.

The story begins when a film director named Ursula contacts (in sometime after 1989) Grace about making a movie about what happened on that day in 1924. That’s when the memories started to come back. She sends tape recordings to her grandson. She tells of her younger days, cleaning, the Hartford siblings (David, Hannah and Emmeline), and Alfred the butler. She also tells of the sadness of WW1 and how empty the house felt after Lord Ashbury, Major Jonathon, and David died. When Alfred (who later becomes her husband who she is not married too) came back, the shell-shock he had. That’s when the unthinkable happens. Hannah marries Theodore (Teddy) Luxton and moves to London. Hannah takes Grace with her as her Lady’s Maid. That’s when as I call it, the dark times for Hannah, and the beginning of them for Grace.

I really liked *the House at Riverton*. I mean, like REALLY liked it. This was a book that combined mystery, romance and historical fiction all perfect harmony. I would even say that it is also a thriller. The book is very thick (468 to be exact), but every single word is important. I also loved that Kate Morton (author) told you what happened at the summer party in 1924, but then decided to tell you the entire story in order that it happened to fully understand the whole motive behind it. I also liked how she had the story jump from memoires to present day, and back again. Yes, in the end(the closest to present day ending) is a little sad, but Grace dies in peace knowing that the secret that she carried for so long is gone. I also thought that the end of the book (1924) is extremely sad, and just goes to show you that romance novels don’t have to have a happy ending.

I would recommend this book for anybody, and yes, anyone. The only people who wouldn’t love this book are people who have a hard time keeping track of who everyone is and being able to distinguish the difference between past and present. I had to re-read parts and write down people’s names and relationships because I couldn’t keep track of them all. This book also showed how people can change due to love, or grief and loss. It also showed how some people will do anything (like fake being in love) in order to be free and live their life.